

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 INR-07 CIAE-00

IO-10 L-02 PRS-01 /061 W

----- 113223

R 120916Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9421

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 0849

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PINS, ML, UV

SUBJECT: TREATMENT OF MALIAN NATIONALS IN UPPER VOLTA

REF: BAMAKO 1325 (NOTAL)

1. I AM SURPRISED AT PRESIDENT TRAORE'S OUTBURST REGARDING TREATMENT OF MALIAN NATIONALS IN UPPER VOLTA. AS I HAVE ALREADY REPORTED, THERE HAS NOT BEEN, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, ANY MISTREATMENT OF MALIAN NATIONALS SINCE THE LOME MEETING LAST DECEMBER. SOME MALIANS SUSPECTED OF SPYING ACTIVITIES ARE BEING WATCHED, OF COURSE, AND SOME MAY HAVE BEEN INTERROGATED. OTHERS HAVE HAD THEIR BANK ACCOUNTS BLOCKED. THE VAST MAJORITY OF MALIANS, HOWEVER, ARE GOING ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS MORE OR LESS AS THEY DID BEFORE THE DECEMBER BORDER INCIDENTS.

2. ALTHOUGH THE MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER IS CLOSED TO MALIANS, THERE IS APPARENTLY NOTHING TO PREVENT THEM FROM LEAVING THROUGH THE IVORY COAST. ACCORDING TO THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR, WHO HAS GOOD CONTACTS IN
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MALIAN CIRCLES AND WHOSE EMBASSY EMPLOYS A RELATIVELY

LARGE NUMBER OF MALIANS, THERE IS LITTLE DESIRE AMONG THEM TO LEAVE UPPER VOLTA FOR MALI. MOST MALIANS IN UPPER VOLTA HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED HERE FOR MANY YEARS. THEY ARE RELATIVELY PROSPEROUS AND NOT ANXIOUS TO GIVE UP EVERYTHING THEY HAVE BUILT UP OVER THE YEARS FOR AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE IN MALI. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT MALIANS HAVE HAD THEIR GOODS TAKEN AWAY FROM THEM OR THAT THEY HAVE BEEN PREVENTED FROM WORKING.

3. RE TRAORE'S LETTER TO LAMIZANA OF DECEMBER 11 (BAMAKO 1325), IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT LAMIZANA PROBABLY RECEIVED IT AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME THAT HE RECEIVED THE NEWS OF THE GASSEGALO INCIDENT (DECEMBER 14) WHICH MARKED THE FIRST INCURSION OF MALIAN TROOPS INTO THE CONTESTED AREA.
GRAHAM

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